

In The Claims:

1-50. (Cancelled)

51-54. (Cancelled)

55. (New) A combination of a functional element with a sheet metal part comprising a single piece of sheet metal, said functional element being in the form of a pin having first and second ends, a length, a diameter and a thread formed at said first end and extending along at least a part of said length, said pin diameter being substantially constant along said length between said first and second ends and at said first end, said pin further having features interrupting said thread at said first end, said first end being adapted for attachment to a sheet metal part, said sheet metal part having a cylindrical side wall and continuous base receiving said first end with an end face of said first end contacting said continuous base, material of said sheet metal part being deformed radially inwardly of said thread at said first end and engaging said features, whereby said threaded pin is permanently attached to said sheet metal part and projects beyond said sheet metal part for the attachment of another component thereto.

56. (New) A combination as set forth in claim 54, wherein said features define a groove disposed crosswise through said thread thereby providing anti-rotational properties to said thread.

57. (New) A combination as set forth in claim 54, wherein said features define a rib disposed crosswise through said thread thereby providing anti-rotational properties to said thread.